The Things for Which 1919 Will Be Remembered

Prohibition, Suffrage, the Trans-Atlantic Flights and the Peace Conference Are High Lights

THERE are several good ways to remember 1919. Any one can think of at least ten off hand. Try it. But the question is, why should 1919 have a place in history? The answer to that comes in a smaller compass. In fact, should it be remembered? But, yes. Sure. Well, why?

PROHIBITION!

That's right. Anything else? Um-m-m—oh, yes.

The first transatlantic flight.

Right again. Next.

Suffrage.

Cheero! But that is surely all.

Yes, unless—well, just what is the situation about peace?

But there is no doubt about prohibition, is there? January 16, 1919, Frank L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State in the absence of Secretary Lansing with the Peace Mission in Paris, issued a proclamation declaring the Prohibition amendment to the Constitution adopted through the action of the legislatures of thirty-six states in ratifying it. And ever since a large number of horrified and scandalized people have been trying to prove that he was wrong. But so far Mr. Polk's statement has withstood all attacks.

Mr. Polk noted in his proclamation that the Prohibition amendment would go into effect as part of the law of the land January 16, 1920. That statement is also questioned, and Rhode Island, which refused to ratify the amendment, has asked the Supreme Court to declare the whole proposition illegal and unconstitutional. Rhode Island feels that she has a peculiar right to demand that her wishes shall be deferred to in what shall or shall not be the law for America. But taking no stand on the rights or wrongs of the question, it may be noted that January 16, 1920, abuts abruptly, and Mr. Polk's proclamation still retains its pristine vigor, while in the interval since his dictum was issued the prohibition experiment has had a trial.

This has been done through the medium of war-time prohibition, which went into effect July 1, and while the problem of whether prohibition prohibits cannot be said to be definitely settled by the experiment, there are some things it has accomplished. For one thing, it has changed the name of whisky to "hooch" and it has put the price up from the old standard of value of 15 cents a drink or two for a quarter to 50 cents a drink as a minimum and $1.25 as the present maximum, with no discount for quantity. The preponderance of evidence, however, is to the effect that the man who really wants a drink can always get it.

There have been many attempts to break war-time prohibition. On numerous occasions optimistic "wets" have been up on their toes ready to dive into the flood of liquor they were sure was about to be let loose, but the Supreme Court killed their last hope when on December 15 it declared the law constitutional.

And still one can get a drink.

One last hope remains to the "wets," that the war will end officially before January 16. In that event there would be a day or two with the lid off between war-time prohibition and constitutional prohibition. Hope springs eternal in the human breast.

What About Peace?

And that brings up the question of what is the situation about peace. Setting that aside for the moment to bring it up again later in its chronological order, it may be noted that in all future histories and encyclopædias 1919 will occupy a large amount of space, for it was on January 18, 1919, that the Peace Conference met in Paris, since when a great deal of printers' ink has flowed under the bridge.

The treaty was signed at Versailles June 28, presented to the Senate by President Wilson for ratification on July 10 and rejected by the Senate on November 19. Hence, America is technically at war with Germany nearly fourteen months after the cessation of hostilities and is preparing to conclude peace treaties with Bulgaria and Turkey, with whom she has never been at war. Peace seems to be singularly like prohibition. One doesn't know where one gets off, does one? Except, of course, that it happened in 1919.

The year was also notable for the first flight across the ocean. Some time before the war "The London Daily Mail," to increase the interest in aviation and hasten the development of the art, had offered a prize of $50,000 for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. As soon as the armistice ended hostilities British aviators turned their attention to the Atlantic flight and several flying teams crossed to Newfoundland to wait for a propitious day for the attempt.

Meanwhile, the American navy, declining to compete for "The Daily Mail" prize, set about the job of being the first to cross the Atlantic by air. On May 8 the naval seaplane, NC-4, piloted by Lieutenant Commander Albert C. Read, left Rockaway for the attempt, and on May 31 arrived in the harbor of Plymouth, England, having completed the first crossing of the Atlantic by air. The route was from Rockaway to Newfoundland, to the Azores, to Portugal, to England.

Harry G. Hawker, the Australian aviator, and his observer, Lieutenant Commander Mackenzie Grieve, seeing that America was about to win the honor of the first transatlantic flight, decided to make the attempt for a non-stop flight without waiting longer on the weather. They had already been camped several weeks on Newfoundland, watching the skies and the wind, when the Americans came and went with business-like lack of fuss. May 18 Hawker and Grieve took off from St. John's, and thereafter were not heard of for a week and were given up for lost. They had completed two-thirds of the flight when the machine broke down and they were picked up by a tramp ship in mid-Atlantic. On May 25 they were transferred to a British warship off the Orkney Islands, and the news of their rescue was flashed around the world.

A Non-Stop Flight

The non-stop flight was accomplished by Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur W. Brown, of the British Air Service, in June. They took off from Newfoundland on June 14 and landed at Clifden, Ireland, at 9:40 a. m. on June 15, after sixteen hours of terrible suffering from cold and storms. After having completed this trip safely, it was Alcock's fate to be killed by a fall recently.

Crossing the Atlantic by air ended for the year with the trip of the British dirigible R-34, which started from East Fortune, Scotland, on July 2, and reached the Mineola flying field on July 6. She started on the return trip at midnight on July 9 and landed in England in the morning of July 13.

There were transcontinental flights by American army aviators, and there was also a flight from England to Australia. This was for a prize of $50,000 offered by the Australian government. The successful flyer was Captain Ross Smith, an Australian aviator, who left England on November 12 and reached Australia on December 10. His route was by way of Cairo, Delhi, the Malay Peninsula and the islands of Oceanica.

The long fight to get a woman's suffrage amendment to the Constitution through Congress was also won in 1919. On May 21 the House of Representatives passed the Susan B. Anthony amendment, and on June 4 the Senate capitulated. Twenty-two states have already ratified the amendment, and suffragists predict that their work will be finished and woman suffrage part of the Constitution by February 1.

There are other reasons why 1919 will stick in the minds of many persons. So recent as to be still fresh in the mind, there is the high cost of Christmas presents, which has mounted to an altitude this year where the atmosphere is too rarefied for many of the bourgeois to exist. One example will do for the family man. Doll perambulators that last year cost $17 are this year priced at $23 for exactly the same article, only not quite as well made. The fellow who fingered the price tag on that affair will remember 1919 for many a long year to come.

This is only in line with the general scheme of mounting costs, however. Housewives will recall 1919 for that hopeful pronunciamento of President Wilson, in August, when he assured the country that prices were going to begin to drop right away, almost, and that within three months the cost of living would be notably less. They will then compare the cheerful Presidential generalities with the cold blooded facts of the November bulletin of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Labor, which said that the cost of living was 2 per cent higher in November than in October. And housewives will remember 1919 for quite a little while.

A good deal might be written about the cost of living in 1919 if this were not the season of good will toward men. Therefore, it is better to turn away from that subject. And there presents itself the topic of labor.

Troubles of Labor

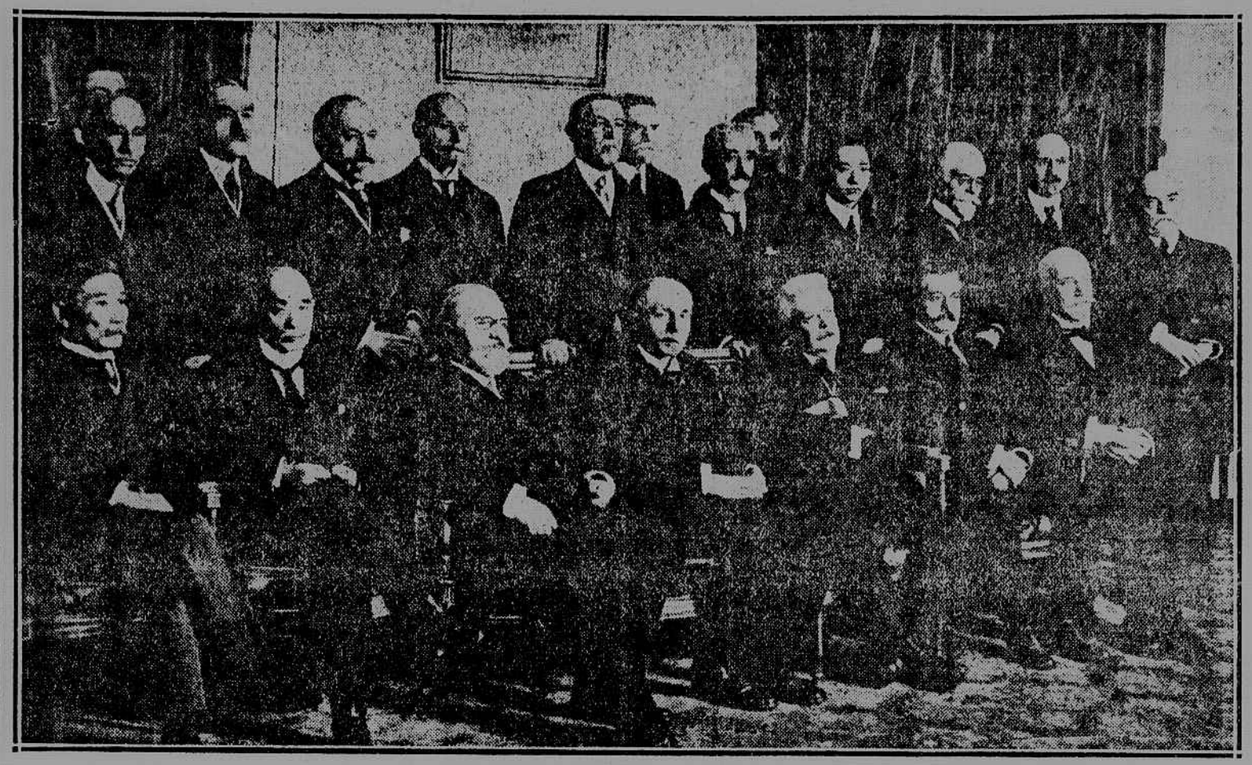
This also is fruitful of discussion and seems inextricably tangled with radicalism. The two principal strikes were the steel strike and the miners' strike. The first was born with a great blare of trumpets and petered out almost unnoticed. The second was ushered in with threats of a national calamity and ended in a compromise after a great deal of suffering that turned sentiment against the miners and forced several states to take possession of the coal mines and work them as a public necessity. In each of these great strikes the radical element was in control at first and made a big noise, but the conservatives among the labor leaders were ultimately able to swing the majority with them.

Speaking generally, the radicals figured 1919 as the beginning of their particular millennium. Many of them now regret that they did not check up their figures more carefully and verify the date by comparative research. Among this number are several hundred "Reds" who were deported to their native Russia. The radicals made an awful lot of noise during the year, but the net result at the end was to show that they formed only a very small percentage of the population of the country, while their method of warfare was built on the ancient Chinese system of mounting "devils" on stilts, beating drums with great vigor and burning stinkpots.

January 6, 1919, ex-President Theodore Roosevelt died at his home on Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay. His physicians said that the immediate cause of death was a clot of blood which detached itself from a vein and entered the lungs. One of the contributory causes of his death was the fever he contracted during his explorations in Brazil, when he discovered the River of Doubt, early in 1914. This fever left a poison in the blood, which had been a contributory cause of several attacks of illness he had suffered since that time.

The death of Colonel Roosevelt removed the most forceful and picturesque figure there was in American public life. His place as a leader still remains to be filled.

One of the Historical Gatherings of 1919



The text of the proposed league of nations covenant was read by President Wilson on February 14, at a meeting of the Peace Conference in Paris. In the photograph, reading from left to right, are seen (seated in front) Viscount Chinda (Japan); next but one, M. Leon Bourgeois (France); Lord Robert Cecil (Great Britain); Signor Orlando (Italy); and, next but one, M. Venizelos (Greece). Standing behind, in the second row: Colonel House (U. S. A.); next but one, M. Vesnitch (Serbia); General Smuts (Great Britain); President Wilson (U. S. A.); M. Hymans (Belgium), and His Excellency Wellington Koo (China). Other members of the committee, not identified in the group, are M. Larnaude (France); Senator Scialoia (Italy); M. Ochiai (Japan); M. Epitacio Pessoa (Brazil), and M. Jaime Batalha Reis (Portugal).

Captain John Alcock

Captain Alcock, since killed, made the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic

Commander A. C. Read

Commander of the NC-4, the first flying craft to cross the Atlantic

Labor Troubles and "Red" Agitation Almost Continuous—Living Cost Never Higher

Having Seen Only Beauty, Beauty Means Nothing to Them

HERE is a new kind of work for some one.

We have had uplifters galore. Artists have devoted their lives to depicting the beauties of nature for the benefit of the people. Educating them up to full appreciation of wonderful scenery and beautiful things has been the mission of countless civic uplift clubs and similar organizations.

Now it is "downlifters" that are needed for people who have been born and reared in the midst of scenic wonders which almost defy description. Most of them have never seen anything else, and they prove the old assertion that beauty is comparative by a failure to realize that this magnificence is even out of the ordinary.

They do not need to know of nature's marvels, having them on every side. But to benefit by them as others do they have to learn of drab, smoky cities; flat, unbroken plains; swarming slums, and the thousand and one features of a lesser outside world.

They need education *downward* to the appreciation of their own surroundings.

The place is Zion Canyon, the Utah wonderland, which has just been made a national park. The people are those of the little Mormon settlements near its entrance which, until the tourists began to come, were far off the beaten track.

Leaving the railroad at Lund, Utah, the automobile stage cuts off across a typical Western desert on the way to Zion Canyon. Then, suddenly topping a rise, the road drops down into the fertile valley surrounding Cedar City. Out again across stretches of desert, through gorges between lava mountains, it winds until, over the crest of another rise, the little village of Toquerville is seen in a cuplike valley of green foliage and farms.

The Dixie country this is called, and on up the Rio Virgin its tiny settlements are like emeralds in a desert setting. Up the Virgin the skyline becomes more vividly colorful. At Rockdale the pink and red commences to mingle with the blue and yellow. Jagged peaks of cream white come into view, rising out of pink cliffs until, at Springdale, the entire panorama of the Zion Canyon entrance lies spread out in rainbow hues, pinks, deep blood reds, dazzling whites, all contrasting with the vivid green of the little farms in the valley and the gray-blue of faraway mountains.

Up the huge gorge the triplet-crags of the Three Patriarchs stand as though on guard at the canyon's mouth. Further up, the top of Angel's Landing can be seen, a Gibraltar of solid red, and the sheer white precipice of El Gobernador breaks up above the encircling, multi-colored cliffs.

The Powell expedition discovered Mukuntuweap, as it was then called by the Indians, shortly after their famous trip down the Grand Canyon. They found it a place of awe and superstition among the savages. Brigham Young, coming later, regarded the valley of the Virgin at its entrance as a good place for settlement and led part of his people there. To them Salt Lake was then Zion, and they renamed the beautiful canyon Little Zion.

Their descendants are still there, a fine, upstanding, honest folk who till the tiny farms. Wheat, vegetables and berries, alfalfa and sugar cane provide the necessaries of life, and a sorghum mill earns dividends in rich syrup. Far up on the top of a forested plateau overlooking Zion Canyon is a mill which provides them with lumber. Worked in co-operative manner, its product is lowered by cable over a sheer cliff to the canyon floor three thousand feet below and is taken out by road.

For years Zion Canyon practically was unknown. Then an occasional tourist, hearing of the rainbow of the desert, would come in. Their enthusiasm was a source of sincere amazement to the folk who had never known anything else, and this in turn astounded the newcomers.

They left to tell of what they had seen, and more came. They were received with characteristic hospitality, but with the query:

"We are glad to see you; but tell us, why do you come?"

Artists told them of "color schemes" and tourists raved over "vistas" and "magnificent heights." Scientists spoke of "stratas" and the half dozen ages represented by them and left the settlers as puzzled as before.

A modern camp was established by W. W. Wylie to accommodate the tourists, and the movement started to set Zion Canyon aside as a national park. Wylie knew the settlers well and understood them. In the little meeting house at Springdale he became the world's first "downlifter" and in easily understood language told them of the unusual character of the region, how it was so different from anything else in the world and why thousands of people from the cities and other parts of the country would come to see it.

Zion Canyon is now America's newest national playground, and thousands undoubtedly will come to view the region, with its half-mile high precipices, its cliff dwellings, the huge rock amphitheaters and unclimbed peaks. El Gobernador is said to rival, if not surpass, the famous El Capitan of the Yosemite, as it rises sheer white to 3,000 feet above the red of the canyon walls.

The Temple of Sinawava is a circular amphitheater whose sheer walls surround two massive rock pillars, once worshiped as idols by early savages. The red cliffs are in turn surmounted by white ones, and mountain peaks of this white rise out of the deeper colors, untouched by the foot of man.

At present only the main canyon is accessible, but with Zion's reservation as a national park roads and trails will be built to parts of even greater beauty.

And as the tourists come the "downlifting" process goes on, a study for an artist or a psychologist, until some day the settlers at Zion's gate will realize the feelings of the outsider who comes, looks and finds himself without fit words to describe his sentiments.

The home and barnyard of a Mormon settler at the mouth of Zion Canyon. These people are so accustomed to splendid scenery that they do not know all the world is not like their surroundings.